

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follow:

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4. (**Amended**) An amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

C (i) an amino acid sequence coded by an isolated nucleic acid sequence of alternative splice variants selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 26;

(b) nucleic acid sequences having at least 90% identity with the sequence of (a) with the proviso that each sequence is different than the original nucleic acid sequence from which the sequences of (a) have been varied by alternative splicing; and

(c) fragments of (a) or (b) of at least 20 b.p., provided that said fragment contains a sequence which is not present, as a continuous stretch of nucleotides, in the original nucleic acid sequence from which the sequences of (a) have been varied by alternative splicing; and

(ii) homologues of the amino acid sequences of (i) in which one or more amino acids has been added, deleted, replaced or chemically modified in the region or adjacent to the region where the amino acid sequences differs from the original amino

acid sequence, coded by the original nucleic acid sequence from which the variant has been varied.

C1  
amended  
5. (Amended) An amino acid sequence according to

Claim 4, as depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 27 to SEQ ID NO:

52.

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CD  
12. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as an active ingredient an agent selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an expression vector comprising

(A) an isolated nucleic acid sequence of alternative splice variants selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleic acid sequence depicted in any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 26;

(b) nucleic acid sequences having at least 90% identity with the sequence of (a) with the proviso that each sequence is different than the original nucleic acid sequence from which the sequences of (a) have been varied by alternative splicing; and

(c) fragments of (a) or (b) of at least 20 b.p., provided that said fragment contains a sequence which is not present, as a continuous stretch of nucleotides, in the original nucleic acid

sequence from which the sequences of (a) have been varied by alternative splicing; and

(B) control elements for the expression of the nucleic acid sequence in a suitable host; and

(ii) any one of the amino acid sequences of Claim 4.

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C2  
done